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### **Town of Garner's Public Works Department Receives APWA Accreditation**

**KANSAS CITY, MO.** –The Town of Garner Department of Public Works has recently been awarded a prestigious American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation. The APWA Accreditation program recognizes public works agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry, as contained in the APWA Public Works Management Practices Manual. The Garner Public Works Department began the Accreditation process in September, 2011, and the department's Accreditation On-Site Evaluation was conducted September 17-19, 2014. The APWA Accreditation was awarded on September 30, 2014. The Public Works Department will be presented the Accreditation plaque at the Town Council Meeting on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 900 Seventh Avenue, in Garner, North Carolina.

The Town of Garner's Public Works Department becomes the 95<sup>th</sup> Accredited Agency in North America, and the first in the state of North Carolina to have been awarded. The APWA Accreditation indicates that the department met all practices and provided documentation required by the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Public Works Management Practices Manual*.

"The awarding of the APWA Accreditation shows that we have dedicated ourselves to concepts of improvement and in-depth self-assessment of department policies, procedures and practices. In particular, Garner had 12 model practices cited by the Accreditation team, including nine for grounds and one each for facilities and inventories, strategic plan and customer service, for example - the Town's garner info app," said Public Works Director, Paul Cox.

Garner's Public Works Department's mission is "committed to providing superior support within our community through professional and customer-focused services." The Department is comprised of several divisions, including Administration, Streets Unit, Public Grounds Unit, Facility Unit, and the Fleet Management Unit. The Administration Division provides a centralized location for the receipt, processing and monitoring of requests for services from residents, officials, and staff. The Streets Unit, as part of the Operations Division, performs maintenance and construction on all Town owned property as needed, including assisting with park construction, traffic requests, Community Development requests, and all sanitation duties not under contract. The Public Grounds Unit is responsible for providing safe parks and athletic facilities that will result in enjoyable and rewarding recreation experiences for the public, as well as supporting other activities and school fields used by the Recreation Division.

The Facility unit, under the Services Division, serves to maintain cost efficient, safe, clean and pleasant places for visitors and Town Employees while preserving the public's investment in Town facilities. They provide building maintenance, basic building improvements, contracts for larger-scale site and building improvements, janitorial services, pest control and utility services. The Fleet Maintenance Unit of the Services Division maintains Town vehicles and equipment with the goal of minimizing repair costs and equipment downtime. This unit ensures that all Federal and State laws concerning vehicle weights, safety, and regulations are maintained and updated as needed. They perform preventive maintenance and repair on approximately 133 licenses motorized vehicles, 40 trailers, and numerous other pieces of equipment.

For the Town of Garner's Public Works Accreditation review, a team of public works professionals from Lee's Summit, MO; Charleston, SC; Covington, GA; and Kansas City, MO, completed a thorough evaluation of operations during their September 2014 site visit. "It's great to have the Garner Department of Public Works reach full compliance in their practices, including the 12 model practices on their first Accreditation. I commend their commitment to the detailed review of the agency's policies and procedures to qualify," said APWA Accreditation Director Ann Daniels.

For more information about Garner's Public Works Department, contact the Director of Public Works Paul Cox, [pcox@garnernc.gov](mailto:pcox@garnernc.gov); or Accreditation Manager Forrest Jones, [fjones@garnernc.gov](mailto:fjones@garnernc.gov). For more information about APWA Accreditation, please contact APWA Director of Accreditation, Ann Daniels at [adaniels@apwa.net](mailto:adaniels@apwa.net). For APWA media queries, please contact Laura Bynum, APWA Media Relations and Communications Manager at [lbynum@apwa.net](mailto:lbynum@apwa.net).

**About APWA**

*The American Public Works Association ([www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net)) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.*

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